THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

NEWS

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Medieval Masterworks from the Cleveland Museum of Art Travel to Bavarian National Museum for May 11 Opening

First CMA traveling exhibition to showcase a significant number of the Museum's Early Christian, Byzantine, and Western Medieval Treasures in Europe

CLEVELAND (May 4, 2007) — The Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) today announced the opening of ***Sacred Gifts and Worldly Treasures: Medieval Masterworks from the Cleveland Museum of Art*** (***The Cleveland Museum of Art. Meisterwerke von 300 bis 1550)*** at the Bavarian National Museum in Munich, Germany. ***Sacred Gifts and Worldly Treasures*** – CMA's first traveling exhibition to showcase a significant number of the Museum's Early Christian, Byzantine, and Western Medieval art in Europe – opens May 11, 2007 and runs through September 16, 2007.

Sacred Gifts and Worldly Treasures comprises works of art executed in a variety of media including painting, sculpture, decorative arts, textiles, prints, and illuminated manuscripts. The exhibition offers a rich survey of the arts and culture of Medieval Europe from the Late Antique period through the Age of Humanism.

"The Cleveland Museum of Art is known around the world for its rich and diverse collection of medieval art," said CMA Director Timothy Rub. "Having begun our $258 million renovation and expansion project in the fall of 2005, we are taking advantage of this rare opportunity to share masterpieces from our permanent collection with audiences around the world. For decades, visitors to The Cleveland Museum of Art have enjoyed the ever-popular Armor Court and Medieval collection. As we begin to reinstall our collections in 2008, these popular pieces will return to Cleveland and once again delight our visitors. We are thrilled to share our collection with the Bavarian National Museum and its director, Renate Eikelmann, a former CMA curator."

Sacred Gifts and Worldly Treasures offers a unique and unprecedented opportunity to view the Cleveland Museum of Art's celebrated collection (including pieces of the Guelph Treasure) of Early Christian, Byzantine, and Western Medieval art. Visitors to the Munich-based venue can explore aspects of artistic patronage, gifts and gift-giving, public and private devotion, courtly life, and medieval warfare. Some of these objects will travel for the first time since they were acquired by the CMA in the 1920s through the 1940s.

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"The Bavarian National Musuem is very pleased that it can represent one of the most selective collections in the United States," said Renate Eikelmann, Bavarian National Museum director. "Furthermore it is a great occasion now that these works may be viewed for a few months alongside the important holdings of the Bavarian National Museum. I am personally glad and grateful to have the opportunity to study and enjoy the pieces I have worked with during my very wonderful time at the CMA." Eikelmann was a research curator of western art from 1989 to 1991.

Highlights include: *Celtic Head* (Northern England, c. 100-300); *The Jonah Marbles* (Asia Minor, c. 280-290); *The Cumberland Medallion* (Germany late 700s); *Plaque from a Book Cover: Christ's Mission to the Apostles* (Ottonian, Milan, c. 970-980); *Portable Altar of Countess Gertrude* (Germany, Lower Saxony, c. 1045); *The "Spitzer Cross"* (French, Limoges, c. 1190); *Table Fountain* (French, Paris, c. 1320-40); *Three Mourners from the Tomb of Philip the Bold, Duke of Burgundy* (Claus de Werve, Netherlandish, 1364-1404); *Adoration of the Magi* (Giovanni di Paolo, c. 1440-45); *St. Jerome and the* Lion (Tilman Riemenschneider, c. 1495); and *Half-armor for the Foot Tournament* (Italian, Milan c. 1590).

"The Cleveland Museum of Art's collection of medieval art is one of the very best in the world," said CMA Robert P. Bergman Curator of Medieval Art, Holger Klein. "It is renowned around the globe, and especially in Germany, because of the CMA's acquisition of some of the earliest and most spectacular pieces from the Guelph Treasure in 1930. The CMA has one of, if not the strongest collections of German Medieval art in the U.S., and many objects have not been seen outside of Cleveland since their acquisition by the Museum. The appreciation of our objects by a scholarly and general audience is probably more favorable in Germany than anywhere else in the world."

The Cleveland Museum of Art's Building and Expansion Project

The new Museum, designed by the acclaimed architect Rafael Viñoly, will increase the Museum's size by nearly 200,000 square feet and will create an architectural setting on par with The Cleveland Museum of Art's extraordinary collection of objects spanning 6,000 years. The two phases of construction are scheduled for completion in 2008 and 2011, respectively. The first phase of the project will result in the renovation of the Museum's architecturally renowned 1971 Marcel Breuer Building and its landmark 1916 Beaux Arts Building, as well as the construction of a new East Wing by 2008. The second phase includes a central piazza and a new West Wing.

During construction, the Museum will continue to provide on- and off-site world-class arts and art education experiences to visitors. The exhibition **Monet in Normandy** will be on view February 18 - May 28, 2007, followed by the reopening of select galleries in the 1916 Building in 2007. The Museum's new East Wing, housing its new, larger temporary exhibitions space, will open in fall 2008 with the exhibition, **Artistic Luxury: Fabergé, Tiffany, Lalique**.

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About the Bavarian National Museum

The Bavarian National Museum, founded in Munich in 1855, is one of the key cultural history museums in Europe. The museum houses a large collection of European artifacts from the Middle Ages through the early 20th century in more than 40 rooms with a special focus on Bavaria and southern Germany. The museum is known for its collections of courtly culture, clocks, furniture, stoneware, porcelain and sculpture.

About The Cleveland Museum of Art

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 6,000 years. The Museum is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. The Cleveland Museum of Art receives operating support from the Ohio Arts Council through state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. For more information on the museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.

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